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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,873	09/22/2003	Hideo Tamamura	03560.003356	4235
5514 7590 08/07/2007 FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			EXAMINER YUAN, DAH WEI D	
			ART UNIT 1745	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/07/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/664,873

Applicant(s)

TAMAMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Dah-Wei D. Yuan

Art Unit

1745

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

**FUEL CELL, FUEL SUPPLY APPARATUS THEREFOR,
AND FUEL SUPPLY SYSTEM THEREFOR**

Examiner: Yuan S.N. 10/664,873 Art Unit: 1745 August 3, 2007

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 18, 2007 has been entered. Claim 8 was amended.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S.C. code not included in this action can be found in the prior Office Action issued on April 3, 2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bullock et al. (US 6,713,201 B2) in view of Dunstan (US 2003/0096144 A1).

Bullock et al. teach a fuel cell system comprising a fuel cell stack (128) and a fuel supply apparatus (132), wherein the access to the fuel supply unit and the water-discharging unit is disposed at the same face of the fuel cell and the fuel supply apparatus comprising a fuel supply unit (142) and a water-suctioning unit (144) (vacuum). Bullock et al. further teach the header information stored by the information storage device will be accessed by the system controller

after the PDA has been initiated (e.g., powered up or reset) with a fuel cartridge present within the fuel cell housing socket. The data structure parameter will be accessed prior to the keying information. In those instance where the keying information stored on the information storage device indicates that the fuel cartridge corresponds to the requirements of the host device, operating will be permitted. If, on the other hand, the keying information indicates that the fuel cartridge is wholly unacceptable, fuel transfer/cell operation will be prevented and the user will receive an audible and/or visibly message concerning the situation. Also, the fuel cell stack (128) is connected to various electrical loads such as the display (114) and system controller (126). The absence of the fuel cell stack from the device will necessarily be detected by the display and controller due to lack of power. See Figure 3, Column 3, Line 45 to Column 4, Lines 34, Column 6, Line 57 to Column 7, Line 12.

However, Bullock et al. do not teach or suggest the water-suctioning unit includes an evaporator that provides heat to the suctioned water. Dunstan teaches a system to remove heat and water from a fuel cell-powered portable electronic device. The system comprises a water-absorbing material and a heat-generating device (16) that facilitates the evaporation of the water byproduct. See Paragraphs 19,25, Figures 1a-1c. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a heat-generating device onto the fuel cell system of Bullock et al., because Dunstan teaches the use of such device to facilitate the evaporation of byproduct water collected in the system.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dah-Wei D. Yuan whose telephone number is (571) 272-1295. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick J. Ryan, can be reached on (571) 272-1292. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dah-Wei D. Yuan
August 3, 2007



DAH-WEIYUAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER